



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 November 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
23 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

A foreign ministry official has "explained" to embassy officers Foreign Minister Do's public threat of hot pursuit into Cambodia.

The official said Do's statement was not really a declaration of a new policy and would not result in South Vietnamese troops actually pursuing the next border violators back into Cambodia. Rather, he said, it was a warning to Sihanouk to desist from his recent public abuse of Saigon officials.

The official admitted, however, that Do's speech was given on orders from "the military" who, he said, favor such countermeasures against Cambodia.

2. Communist China

The battle for power within the leadership took a sudden new turn today. Red Guard attacks on Chief of State Liu Shao-chi and the general secretary of the party were sharply intensified. Both are now publicly accused of very serious political crimes. This may well be the start of a move to bring them down in disgrace.

3. Guinea

Russian teachers at Guinea's polytechnic institute are upset at the prospect of a US aid pullout from Guinea. One of the deans at the institute says the Russians fear the result would be to place them in the intolerable position of direct confrontation with the Chinese aid personnel in Guinea. Ultimately, they fear, the Guineans may turn on them as they have the Americans.

4. Jordan

The situation is grave. Violent anti-Husayn demonstrations erupted today in every important center in west Jordan, including Jerusalem. Some openly called for the King's overthrow. Jordanian officials expect the demonstrations to become even more violent.

So far the police and troops appear to be responding to orders but this may not last much longer. The use of troops to repress demonstrations is further intensifying military demands for retaliation against Israel. Such a retaliatory strike would, in fact, be the one thing that could quickly--if momentarily--restore the King's and the army's prestige.

King Husayn insists his choice has now narrowed to either a strike at Israel, even if it be suicidal, or facing a popular revolution at home. He told a US Embassy officer last night that "I have never before been blamed so openly by my own people and army for failing to provide the necessary defense against Israel. To oppose pro-Nasir demonstrations is one thing. To seem to oppose my own people and army on Israel is quite another."

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5. Uruguay

The prospects for continued democracy in Uruguay hang on the outcome of Sunday's elections. If none of the four proposals to replace the nation's unwieldy nine-man executive with a single president is approved, the result will be bitter public disillusionment. The pressures for illegal action to force a change will then grow.

The voters must choose from a bewildering array of candidates for both the presidency--in case constitutional reform is approved--and for a new National Council of Government--in the event reform fails.

At this point it looks like a toss-up between the two traditional political parties. It is generally expected, however, that the Communists' electoral front will make significant gains and thus increase its stature as an important minority group.

6. NATO

The Germans are moving ahead on their own in talks with the French regarding the legal status of French troops in Germany. Bonn and Paris now hope to have the issue settled before the mid-December NATO ministerial meeting.

Bonn had earlier agreed to keep these talks parallel to General Lemnitzer's negotiations with Paris on the mission of the French forces in Germany and their relationship with the NATO command.

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